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Deputy Attorney General
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FILED *October 12, 2012*
J. Michael Haefliger
**NEW JERSEY BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

FILED *October 12, 2012*
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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
AND ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR
COMMITTEE OF THE STATE BOARD OF
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSES
OF

Civil Action

Consent Order

MICHAEL A. DeMASSI, LCADC, LSW
LICENSE NO. 44SL05415500
37LC00144700

TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK AND
CLINICAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG
COUNSELING IN THE STATE OF NEW
JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work (hereinafter the "Board") and the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (hereinafter the "Committee") on July 2, 2012 and March 23, 2012, respectively, by Administrative

Complaints, of Jeffrey S. Chiesa, Attorney General of New Jersey, by Carla M. Silva, Deputy Attorney General, on notice to Respondent, Michael A. DeMassi, LCADC, LSW (hereinafter "Respondent"), seeking the revocation or suspension of the Respondent's license to practice social work and license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling and for such other relief as deemed appropriate, pursuant to the authority conferred on the Board and Committee by N.J.S.A. 45:1-14 et seq., N.J.S.A. 45:2D-1 et seq., N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-1 et seq. and related administrative regulations.

Answers were filed with the Board and Committee on August 8, 2012 and April 18, 2012, respectively. The hearing was scheduled to commence on October 12, 2012.

The Complaints are premised on identical facts and allege that Respondent developed an improper dual relationship with a sixteen year old client, A.R., while A.R. was receiving therapeutic services. The Complaints further allege that Respondent violated therapist-client boundaries by formally adopting A.R. thirteen months after A.R. terminated treatment with Respondent.

Respondent being desirous of resolving this matter and the Board and Committee, respectively finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare and the parties having agreed hereto,

It is on this 12th day of October, 2012,

Ordered:

1. Respondent's license to practice social work is hereby revoked. Respondent shall not engage in the practice of social work or provide mental health services in any setting, including, but not limited to, uncompensated or volunteer social work practice, life coaching, internet counseling and/or any exempt settings. Respondent's revocation shall be effective thirty (30) days after the entry of this Order to permit the orderly transfer of clients.

2. Respondent's license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling is hereby revoked. Respondent shall not engage in the practice of clinical alcohol and drug counseling or provide mental health services in any setting, including, but not limited to, uncompensated or volunteer counseling practice, life coaching, internet counseling and/or any exempt settings. Respondent's revocation shall be effective thirty (30) days after the entry of this Order to permit the orderly transfer of clients.

3. Respondent may petition the Board and/or Committee for relicensure no sooner than three (3) years from the filing of the instant Consent Order. At that time he must satisfy all current requirements for licensure. No credit shall be granted toward time prior to any application for reinstatement for any period in which Respondent is providing any type of mental health service in any

other jurisdiction or country, whether or not such service is provided in an exempt setting.

4. The Board and/or Committee in their discretion may require Respondent to demonstrate certain competencies and fitness and fulfill certain conditions prior to consideration of an application for reinstatement.

5. Should Respondent's license to practice social work and/or license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling be reinstated, the Board and/or Committee, in their discretion, may impose any reasonable conditions or restrictions on licensure they deem necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

6. Respondent is hereby assessed the investigative costs to the State in this matter in the amount of \$3,144.37.

7. Respondent is hereby assessed the court reporter and transcript costs to the State in this matter in the amount of \$1,128.85.

8. Respondent is hereby assessed the expert costs to the State in this matter in the amount of \$3,750.00.

9. The investigative costs, court reporter and transcript costs and expert costs shall be paid in nine (9) equal monthly installments at the Court Rule rate of interest with the first payment due and owing no later than sixty (60) days from the entry of this Consent Order and the remaining eight (8) installments due each month thereafter. Payment shall be made by certified check or


money order made payable to the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners and mailed to: Acting Executive Director Terri Goldberg, Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, 124 Halsey Street, P.O. Box 45007, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Failure to make timely payments shall result in acceleration of the balance of the debt, a Certificate of Debt shall be filed, and the Board may institute such other proceedings as are authorized by law.

10. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of a filed copy of this Order, Respondent shall surrender his original wall certificate, his wallet certificate, and the most recent renewal card for each of his licenses to an authorized representative of the Board and/or Committee or mail these items to: Carla Silva, DAG, 124 Halsey Street, P.O. Box 45029, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

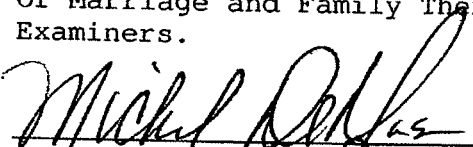
11. This Order shall be considered a full and final resolution of the charges set forth in the Administrative Complaints filed with the Board and Committee on July 2, 2012 and March 23, 2012, respectively, except that the Board and Committee retain jurisdiction to the extent necessary to enforce the terms of this Order.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
OF THE STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

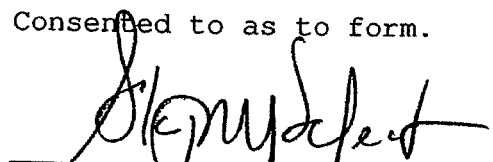

By: Edward Reading, LCADC
Committee Chair

I have read the within Order,
understand its terms and agree
to be bound by them. I
consent to entry of the Order
by the Board of Social Work and
the Alcohol and Drug Counselor
Committee of the State Board
of Marriage and Family Therapy
Examiners.


Michael A. DeMassi, LCADC, LSW

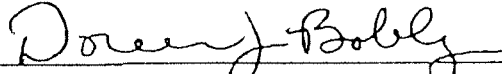
Date: 9/28/12

Consented to as to form.


Stephen Schechner, Esq.

Date: 9/28/12

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

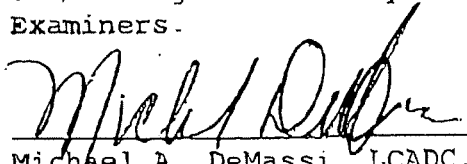


By: Doreen J. Bobby, MSW, LCSW
Board President

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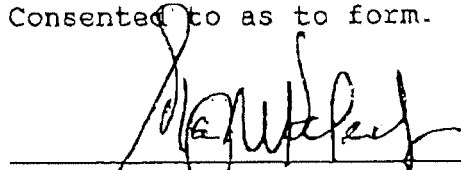
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Michael A. DeMassi, LCADC, LSW

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Stephen Schechner, Esq.

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